



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 6, 2005

For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

**MESA MAN CHARGED IN FEDERAL COURT
FOR MAKING RICIN**

PHOENIX – Casey Cutler, 25, of Mesa, Ariz., was charged in federal court on Sunday on charges that he produced, and was in possession of, the biological toxin ricin. He was taken into custody and questioned by the FBI and the Mesa Police Department. At this time in the investigation, no terrorism link has been found nor are there indications that Cutler transferred the substance to anyone else. Cutler had an initial appearance on Sunday, June 4, 2005 in front of Magistrate Lawrence O. Anderson and will appear before Magistrate Anderson on Tuesday, June 7, 2005 at 11 a.m. for a status hearing.

The criminal complaint charges Cutler with violating Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 175(a), for knowingly producing and possessing a biological toxin for use as a weapon. A conviction for producing and possessing a biological toxin for use as a weapon carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both.

The Arizona Department of Health Services stated at a press conference on Sunday, June 5, 2005 that there did not appear to be any public health threat from this isolated incident.

A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the complaint was conducted by the FBI and the Mesa Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Joseph C. Welty, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: 05-3169M
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-110

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